

A Flute Studio Curriculum

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

by

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Abstract

Music is an exceptionally diverse field that can be difficult to teach without a direction or guide. The individualistic nature of music requires flexibility and a strong foundation to help young musicians grow and discover a sense of meaning within the notes. This guide can provide teachers and students with the infrastructure necessary to develop necessary skills, as well as inspiration to explore creative opportunities. Included in this flute curriculum are the basic building blocks such as scales and breathing exercises, and more expressive musical material such as etude and repertoire suggestions. In addition, supplemental readings and resources are included as well. This combination has the potential to create the next generation of great flute players, and to enhance the lives of everyone it reaches.

Acknowledgments

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I would also like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues for supporting and encouraging me during this process.

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Process Analysis Statement

For this project, I had to use a critical and creative thought process. The first step I took to create this flute studio curriculum was to reflect on experiences I have had in my own journey through flute lessons. Everything from technical components to the complex and individualistic emotional aspect to music was considered and analyzed. Once the mindset for this project was settled, I decided on a series of seven levels that correspond to the typical timeframe in which a young musician starts taking lessons and playing in band. This was around sixth grade, so the seven levels flow up through a student's senior year of high school. Next, I began to brainstorm how I wanted to integrate scales, the building blocks of musical compositions, into my teaching curriculum. Looking back at what I did and did not like about how I learned them in combination with pedagogical knowledge I have gained, helped me to create a plan that I feel confident about. Then, I began to browse the library and online resources, such as IMSLP, for flute studies and repertoire. After analyzing each piece and the musical challenges they offered, I was able to place them in an appropriate level in my curriculum. Some critical aspects of a musical education did not fit into the categories of scales, studies, or repertoire, so I had to come up with a plan of where to fit these pieces of information.

A large project such as this one comes with some inherent challenges and obstacles. One major aspect about myself that was tested during this process was patience. Several compositions were not automatically found with a simple Google search and required extra time and effort to find and analyze. This put my patience to the test, but the result was well worth it in the end. Another struggle I faced was dealing with a lack of confidence. I was not always sure of myself and my judgments on where a piece should be placed. I had to rely on my gut and accept that not everyone will agree with all of my ideas. Perhaps the most daunting challenge I faced when working on this project was stepping outside of myself to see it from the reader's perspective. The audience of this curriculum is future students and their parents who may not have an extensive base of knowledge about music and musical terminology. I often found myself needing to regroup and revise my work from a different set of eyes.

I feel that by completing this project, I have a better understanding of one facet of the musical world. Interactions between teachers and students can result in the creation of experiences that are beneficial and enjoyable for both listeners and performers. These interactions are guided in part by a curriculum such as this one. Using this project as a foundation, myself and other teachers who may come across this curriculum will be able to use it to guide the next generation of musicians in a fun and healthy way.

Introduction/Teaching Philosophy

Hello! Welcome to my private flute studio curriculum! My name is Tara Blackard, and I look forward to exploring the world of flute music with you. More information about my background and education are available on my website: <http://tarablackard.weebly.com>.

Learning how to play a musical instrument is a profoundly rewarding process. The joy discovered can have a significant impact on an individual's sense of self worth and beyond. One of the greatest aspects of creating music is its individualistic nature. Each student musician has something unique to display to the world, and music is a powerful method by which this is possible. The main goal of this curriculum is to provide a strong technical and emotional foundation, while also being flexible enough to allow students to be creative and express themselves in their own way.

As I began to formulate ideas about what to include in this curriculum, I looked back at my own personal experience and combined it with research and analysis of existing flute syllabi, such as The Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada and the Royal Academy of Music in England. I began by setting the framework for a seven-level system that could fit into the timeline of middle school and high school, which generally spans from sixth grade to senior year. Next, I designed each level to include a section of scales, etudes, and repertoire. Lastly, I filled in the blanks with other aspects of a musical education such as music history, music theory, aural skills, and methods of maintaining a long and healthy relationship with music.

Scales and warm-ups serve a particularly important purpose. All music is made up of combinations of scales, so knowing how to play them means that no piece of music is truly out of reach. Much like a runner needs to stretch before a jog around the neighborhood, a flute player also needs to prepare before a lesson or practice session. Warm-ups such as long tones and breathing exercises serve to prepare both the mind and body for a productive and fun music making session. Etudes and repertoire allow a musician to take skills and ideas from scales, warm-ups, and their own creativity to create a sound that is uniquely theirs.

Each student has the potential to become a great musician. With dedication and support, a strong and satisfying relationship with music can last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Tara Blackard

Scales by Level

Level 1

- Major scales: sequences of notes in ascending or descending order
 - Include arpeggios: notes from a chord played in an ascending or descending order
 - One octave: distance between notes with the same name (Ex: from C to C)
 - Duration of notes: Whole (4 beats), half (2 beats), or quarter (one beat)
 - Slow to moderate speed
 - Focus on tone, correct notes, and breathing

Level 2

- Major scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - One to two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, and eighth (half of a beat)
 - Slow to moderate speed
 - Focus on tone, correct notes, and breathing

Level 3

- Major scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth (quarter of a beat)
 - Moderate to fast speeds
 - Focus on tone
 - Ensure that fingers are moving efficiently
- Minor Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - One to two octaves
 - Moderate speed
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Focus on tone and correct notes
- Chromatic scale: a scale including every single note within a specified range
 - Slow speed
 - At least two octaves
 - Focus on tone and note accuracy

Level 4

- Major Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone
 - Consider musical expression such as phrasing, dynamics, etc.

- Minor Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone
 - Consider musical expression such as phrasing, dynamics, etc.
- Chromatic scale (faster, bigger range)
 - At least two octaves
 - Moderate to fast speed

Level 5

- Major Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Minor Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Chromatic Scale
 - Full range
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality

Level 6

- Major Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Minor Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Chromatic Scale
 - Full range
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality

Level 7

- Major Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Minor Scales
 - Include arpeggios
 - Two octaves
 - Duration of notes: Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Chromatic Scale
 - Full range
 - Moderate to fast speed
 - Focus on tone, technique, and musicality
- Introduce Pentatonic and Whole Tone Scales
 - Pentatonic Scales: five note scales created with only the black or only the white keys on a piano
 - Whole Tone Scales: scales where the notes are all separated by the same intervals

Etudes Suggestions by Level

-Level 1

- Rubank: *Elementary Method*
- Publisher: Rubank
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 1*
- Publisher: Summy Birchard
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 2*
- Publisher: Summy Birchard
- Wye, Trevor: *Beginner's Book 1*
- Publisher: Novello

-Level 2

- Cavally: *Melodious and Progressive Studies 1*
- Publisher: Robert Cavally Editions/Hal Leonard
- Rubank: *Intermediate Method*
- Publisher: Rubank
- Gariboldi, Giuseppe: *Etudes Mignones, Op. 131*
- Publisher: Alphonse Leduc or Billaudot
- Gariboldi, Giuseppe: *Op. 132 Twenty Etudes*
- Publisher: Alphonse Leduc or Billaudot

-Level 3

- Berbiguier, Tranquille: *Eighteen Studies in all Tonalities for Flute*
- Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Rubank: *Advanced Method 1*
- Publisher: Rubank
- Rubank: *Advanced Method 2*
- Publisher: Rubank
- Cavally: *Melodious and Progressive Studies 2*
- Publisher: Robert Cavally Editions/Hal Leonard

-Level 4

- Andersen, Joachim: *26 Little Caprices, Op. 37*
- Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *18 Studies for Flute, Op. 41*
- Publisher: Southern Music Co. or Little Piper
- Berbiguier, Tranquille: *Eighteen Studies in all Tonalities for Flute*
- Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Rubank: *Advanced Method 2*
- Publisher: Rubank
- Cavally: *Melodious and Progressive Studies 3*
- Publisher: Southern Music Co.

-Level 5

- Andersen, Joachim: *26 Little Caprices, Op. 37*
- Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *18 Studies for Flute, Op. 41*
- Publisher: Southern Music Co. or Little Piper

-Level 5 Continued

- Anderson, Joachim: *24 Studies for Flute, Op. 21*
-Publisher: Schott or Southern Music Co.
- Bach, JS: *24 Flute Concert Studies*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Berbiguier, Tranquille: *Eighteen Studies in all Tonalities for Flute*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Kohler, Ernesto: *25 Romantic Etudes, Op. 66*
-Publisher: Billaudot or Southern Music Co.

-Level 6

- Andersen, Joachim: *26 Little Caprices, Op. 37*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *24 Progressive Studies for Flute, Op. 33*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *24 Instructive Studies for Flute, Op. 30*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Anderson, Joachim: *24 Studies for Flute, Op. 21*
-Publisher: Schott or Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *26 Little Caprices, Op. 37*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Bach, JS: *24 Flute Concert Studies*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Berbiguier, Tranquille: *Eighteen Studies in all Tonalities for Flute*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Kohler, Ernesto: *25 Romantic Etudes, Op. 66*
-Publisher: Billaudot or Southern Music Co.

-Level 7

- Andersen, Joachim: *24 Progressive Studies for Flute, Op. 33*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Andersen, Joachim: *24 Artistic Studies for Flute, Op. 15*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co. or G. Schirmer
- Andersen, Joachim: *24 Instructive Studies for Flute, Op. 30*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Bach, JS: *24 Flute Concert Studies*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Berbiguier, Tranquille: *Eighteen Studies in all Tonalities for Flute*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Kohler, Ernesto: *25 Romantic Etudes, Op. 66*
-Publisher: Billaudot or Southern Music Co.

Suggested Repertoire by Level

-Level 1

- Barratt, Carol: *Bravo! Flute*
 - Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes
- Denley, Ian: *Time Pieces for Flute Volume 1 and 2*
 - Publisher: ABRSM
- Harris, Paul and Sally Adams: *Music Through Time Book 1 and 2*
 - Publisher: Oxford
- Moyse, Louis: *Forty Little Pieces*
 - Publisher: G. Schirmer
- Pearce, Judith and Christopher Gunning: *The Really Easy Flute Book*
 - Publisher: Faber
- Reeman, John: *Jazzy Flute for Young Players Vol. 1*
 - Publisher: Universal Editions
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 1 and 2*
 - Publisher: Summy Birchard
- Wye, Trevor: *Beginner's Book for the Flute Part 1 and 2*
 - Publisher: Novello

-Level 2

- Davies, Philippa and Paul Reade: *Going Solo-Flute*
 - Publisher: Faber
- Denley, Ian: *Time Pieces for Flute Volume 2*
 - Publisher: ABRSM
- Harris, Paul and Sally Adams: *Music Through Time Book 3*
 - Publisher: Oxford
- Jones, Richard: *Baroque Flute Pieces Book 1 and 2*
 - Publisher: ABRSM
- Moyse, Louis: *First Solos for the Flute Player*
 - Publisher: G. Schirmer
- Moyse, Louis: *Forty Little Pieces*
 - Publisher: G. Schirmer
- Rae, James: *Progressive Jazz Studies for Flute Easy Level*
 - Publisher: Faber
- Reeman, John: *Jazzy Flute for Young Players Vol. 2*
 - Publisher: Universal Editions

-Level 3

- Cernauskas, Kathryn: *Magical Flute Book 1*
 - Publisher: Avondale Press
- Davies, Philippa and Paul Reade: *Going Solo-Flute*
 - Publisher: Faber
- Harrison, Howard: *Amazing Studies for Flute*
 - Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes

-Level 3 Continued

- Jones, Richard: *Baroque Flute Pieces Book 3 and 4*
-Publisher: ABRSM
- Moyse, Louis: *First Solos for the Flute Player*
-Publisher: G. Schirmer
- Rae, James: *Progressive Jazz Studies for Flute Intermediate Level*
-Publisher: Faber
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 3*
-Publisher: Summy Birchard
- Wye, Trevor: *A Very Easy 20th Century Album*
-Publisher: Novello

-Level 4

- Bach, JS: *Sonata in E flat major, BWV 1031:Siliciano*
-Publisher: Barenreiter
- Cernauskas, Kathryn: *Magical Flute Book 1 and 2*
-Publisher: Avondale Press
- Demersseman, Jules: *Six fantaisies faciles, Op. 28*
-Publisher: Billaudot
- Donjon. Johannes: *Pan! Pastorale for flute and piano*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Hindemith, Paul: *Echo*
-Publisher: Schott
- Moyse, Louis: *First Solos for the Flute Player*
-Publisher: G. Schirmer
- Saint-Seans, Camile: *Airs de Ballet d'Ascanio*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Rachmaninoff, Sergei: *Vocalise*
-Publisher: International
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 3 and 4*
-Publisher: Summy Birchard
- Wye, Trevor: *A Very Easy 20th Century Album*
-Publisher: Novello

-Level 5

- Gaubert, Philippe: *Madrigal for flute and piano*
-Publisher: International or Little Piper
- Ibert, Jacques: *Aria for flute and piano*
-Publisher: Alphonse Leduc
- Pergolesi, Giovanni Battista: *Concerto in G major*
-Publisher: International or Billaudot
- Pessard, Emile: *Andalouse for flute and piano*
-Publisher: Southern Music Co.
- Rachmaninoff, Sergei: *Vocalise*
-Publisher: International

Level 5 Continued

- Rutter, John: *Suite Antique*
-Publisher: Oxford
- Takahashi, Tokio: *Suzuki Flute School 4*
-Publisher: Summy Birschard
- Telemann, Georg Philipp: *Sonata in F major TWV 41*
-Publisher: International

-Level 6

- Bach, JS: *Partita in a minor for solo flute*
-Publisher: Schott-Universal Edition (Urtext)
- Gaubert, Philippe: *Madrigal for flute and piano*
-Publisher: International or Little Piper
- Hindemith, Paul: *Acht Stucke for flute alone*
-Publisher: Schott
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus: *Concerto in G major K 313*
-Publisher: C.F. Peters or Billaudot
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus: *Concerto in D major K 314*
-Publisher: International or C.F. Peters
- Pergolesi, Giovanni Battista: *Concerto in G major*
-Publisher: International or Billaudot
- Stamitz, Carl: *Concerto in G major Op. 29*
-Publisher: International or Schott
- Telemann, Georg Philipp: *Sonata in F major TWV 41*
-Publisher: International
- Selections from the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Solo and Ensemble Group 1 list:
<http://www.issma.net/downloads/woodwindmanual.pdf>

-Level 7

- Bach, JS: *Partita in a minor for solo flute*
-Publisher: Schott-Universal Edition (Urtext)
- Caplet, Andre: *Reverie et Petite Valse for flute and piano*
-Publisher: International or Southern Music Co.
- Debussy, Claude: *Syrinx*
-Publisher: Little Piper or Barenreiter
- Faure, Gaubert: *Fantaisie Op. 79 for flute and piano*; Gabriel Faure
-Publisher: International
- Gaubert, Philippe: *Madrigal for flute and piano*
-Publisher: International or Little Piper
- Joplin, Scott: *Six Ragtimes Volume 1*
-Publisher: Kunzelman
- Moyse, Louis: *Flute Music by French Composers*
-Publisher: G Schirmer Inc
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus: *Concerto in G major K 313*
-Publisher: C.F. Peters or Billaudot

-Level 7 Continued

- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus: *Concerto in D major K 314*
 - Publisher: International or C.F. Peters
- Telemann, Georg Philipp: *Twelve Fantasias for solo flute*
 - Publisher: International or Barenreiter
- Selections from the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Solo and Ensemble Group 1 list:
<http://www.issma.net/downloads/woodwindmanual.pdf>

Lesson Format

For each lesson, students will prepare the following:

- Level appropriate scale assignment
- One assigned etude
- One or two selections/pieces from their repertoire assignment

Other

1. For beginners:

- Purchasing or renting an instrument
- How to put together and care for the instrument
- How to hold the flute
- Embouchure and posture
- Making the first sounds

2. For new students (not beginners):

- Purchasing or renting an instrument
- Level will be determined after the first few lessons
- Personalized version of the curriculum will be created

3. For college bound students:

- Extra music theory lessons available (chords, intervals, part-writing, etc.)
- Introductory music history lessons available
- Ear-training lessons available
- What to expect at a college audition
- Information about music festivals and competitions available upon request

4. For everyone:

- Individual progress assessed at the end of each "year"
- Basic music theory will be taught as needed
- Sight-reading: Playing a piece without previous practice
- Etiquette, professionalism, and musical collaboration
- Participating in band class in a healthy way
- Possible health issues and preventive measures
- Maintaining a love of music throughout life
- Networking skills
- Level appropriate selections from the following books will be used in lessons and individual practice:

- Marcel Moyse: *De La Sonorite: on Sonority and Technique*

- Publisher: Alphonse Leduc

- Taffanel and Gaubert: *17 Big Daily Exercises for the Flute*

- Publisher: Alphonse Leduc

- Trevor Wye: *Practice Books for the Flute: Tone, Technique, Articulation, Intonation and Vibrato, Breathing and Scales*

- Publisher: Novello

Resources

Sheet Music

- Flute World
<http://www.fluteworld.com>
- IMSLP
<http://imslp.org>

Instruments

- Flute Specialists
<http://www.flutespecialists.com>
- Indy Flute Shop
<http://indyfluteshop.com>
- Flute Center of New York
<http://www.flutes4sale.com>

Recordings

- Naxos
<http://www.naxos.com>

Music Theory/Aural Skills Aids

- <http://www.musictheory.net>
- <http://www.teoria.com>

Other Information

- National Flute Association
<http://www.nfaonline.org>

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